

## CLAIMS

### What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:  
  
receiving a genealogical data element; and  
  
determining a rating wherein the rating is associated with the genealogical data element.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.
6. The method of claim 3, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.
7. The method of claim 3, wherein the mathematical operation is a user defined transfer function.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein a debit or a credit is exchanged for the determining.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - receiving a rating associated with a second genealogical data element;
  - and
  - using the rating associated with the second genealogical data element in the determining.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the mathematical operation is a user defined transfer function.

16. The method of claim 9, wherein a debit or a credit is exchanged for the determining.

17.

A method comprising:

associating a rating of a first genealogical data element with a rating of a second genealogical data element.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

determining a rating of a third genealogical data element based on the associating.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the first genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence,

a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation on the rating of the first genealogical data element and the rating of the second genealogical data element.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the mathematical operation is a user defined transfer function.

27. The method of claim 18, wherein a debit or a credit is exchanged for the determining.

28. The method of claim 17, further comprising:  
determining an adjusted rating of the first genealogical data element based on the associating.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the first genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a

death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation on the rating of the first genealogical data element and the rating of the second genealogical data element.

32. The method of claim 28, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation.
33. The method of claim 32, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.
34. The method of claim 32, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.
35. The method of claim 32, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.
36. The method of claim 32, wherein the mathematical operation is a user defined transfer function.
37. The method of claim 28, wherein a debit or a credit is exchanged for the determining.
38. An apparatus comprising:  
a genealogical data element; and  
a rating wherein the rating is associated with the genealogical data element.



39. The method of claim 38, wherein the genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

40. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the rating is influenced by a rating associated with a second genealogical data element.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo,

multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

42. An apparatus comprising:

a genealogical data element; and

a rating wherein the rating is associated with the genealogical data element and the rating is determined from a rating of a first genealogical data element and a rating of a second genealogical data element.

43. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the first genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

44. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a

death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

45. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the rating can be determined from a mathematical operation involving the rating of the first genealogical data element and the rating of the second genealogical data element.

46. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.

47. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.

48. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.

49. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the mathematical operation is a user defined transfer function.

50. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the rating associated with the genealogical data element is an adjusted rating.

51. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the first genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

52. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization,

membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

53. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the rating can be determined from a mathematical operation.

54. The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.

55. The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.

56. The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.

57. An apparatus comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor programmed to:

receive a genealogical data element;

determine a rating of the genealogical data element; and

maintain in the storage device the genealogical data element and the rating.

58. The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

59. The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the processor utilizes a mathematical operation to determine the rating.

60. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.

61. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.

62. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.

63. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the mathematical operation is a user defined transfer function.

64. The apparatus of claim 57, wherein a debit or a credit is exchanged to maintain in the storage device the genealogical data element and the rating.

65. The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

receive a second genealogical data element;

determine a rating associated with the second genealogical data element;

and

utilize the rating associated with the second genealogical data element to determine the rating of the genealogical data element.

66. The apparatus of claim 65, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a

divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

67. The apparatus of claim 65, wherein the processor utilizes a mathematical operation to determine the rating associated with the second genealogical data element.

68. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.

69. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.

70. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.

71. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the mathematical operation is a user defined transfer function.



72. The apparatus of claim 65, wherein a debit or a credit is exchanged to maintain in the storage device the genealogical data element and the rating.

73. An apparatus comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor programmed to:

associate a rating of a first genealogical data element with a rating of a second genealogical data element to form an association; and maintain in the storage device the association.

74. The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the processor is further programmed to determine a rating of a third genealogical data element based on the association.

75. The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the first genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo,

multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

76. The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

77. A computer readable medium containing executable computer program instructions, which when executed by a data processing system, cause the data processing system to perform a method comprising:

- receiving a genealogical data element; and
- determining a rating wherein the rating is associated with the genealogical data element.

78. The computer readable medium of claim 77, wherein the genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note,

a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

79. The computer readable medium of claim 77, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation.

80. The computer readable medium, as set forth in claim 77, the method further comprising:

receiving a rating associated with a second genealogical data element;

and

using the rating associated with the second genealogical data element in the determining.

81. The computer readable medium of claim 80, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a

christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

82. The computer readable medium of claim 80, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation.

83. The computer readable medium of claim 82, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.

84. The computer readable medium of claim 82, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.

85. A computer readable medium containing executable computer program instructions, which when executed by a data processing system, cause the data processing system to perform a method comprising:

associating a rating of a first genealogical data element with a rating of a second genealogical data element.

86. The computer readable medium, as set forth in claim 85, the method further comprising:

determining a rating of a third genealogical data element based on the associating.

87. The computer readable medium of claim 85, wherein the first genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

88. The computer readable medium of claim 85, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an

address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

89. The computer readable medium of claim 86, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation on the rating of the first genealogical data element and the rating of the second genealogical data element.

90. The computer readable medium of claim 86, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation.

91. The computer readable medium of claim 90, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.

92. The computer readable medium of claim 90, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.

93. The computer readable medium of claim 90, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.

94. The computer readable medium of claim 90, wherein the mathematical operation is a user defined transfer function.

95. The computer readable medium of claim 86, wherein a debit or a credit is exchanged for the determining.

96. The computer readable medium, as set forth in claim 85, the method further comprising:

determining an adjusted rating of the first genealogical data element based on the associating.

97. The computer readable medium of claim 96, wherein the first genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

98. The computer readable medium of claim 96, wherein the second genealogical data element is selected from the group consisting of source-information, a note, a source, an event, an event detail, a birth, a date of birth, a time of birth, a place of birth, a death, a time of death, a place of death, a christening, a communion, a confirmation, a church membership, a betrothal, an engagement, a marriage, a divorce, ownership of property, a job, an office, membership in an organization, membership in a professional community, an address, a duration at a residence, a relationship, a name, a link, a link detail, an individual, a family, a photo, multimedia, a sound file, a fingerprint record, a retina scan, a dental record, a medical record, a form of identification, a rating and an adjusted rating.

99. The computer readable medium of claim 96, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation on the rating of the first genealogical data element and the rating of the second genealogical data element.

100. The computer readable medium of claim 96, wherein the determining performs a mathematical operation.

101. The computer readable medium of claim 100, wherein the mathematical operation is selected from the group consisting of addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, a user defined operation.



102. The computer readable medium of claim 100, wherein the mathematical operation is a sigmoid function.

103. The computer readable medium of claim 100, wherein the mathematical operation is a transfer function.

104. The computer readable medium of claim 100, wherein the mathematical operation is a user defined transfer function.

105. The computer readable medium of claim 96, wherein a debit or a credit is exchanged for the determining.

106. An apparatus comprising:  
means for representing genealogical data;  
means for determining a rating of genealogical data; and  
means for associating the genealogical data and the rating.

107. The apparatus of claim 106, further comprising:  
means for adjusting the rating of the genealogical data.

108. The apparatus of claim 106, further comprising:  
means for storing the genealogical data and the rating.

109. An apparatus comprising:
- genealogical data element means;
  - means for rating, wherein a rating of the genealogical data element means can be obtained; and
  - association means for associating the genealogical data element means with the rating.
110. The apparatus of claim 109, further comprising:
- adjusting means, wherein the rating can be adjusted.
111. The apparatus of claim 109, further comprising:
- means for storing the genealogical data element means and the rating.